

Monday Morning Eye-Opener May 17, 2021

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MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



May 17, 2021



ARPA Grants for Libraries Application Opens May 19th

Last week, the State Library announced grants to Iowa's public libraries with funding appropriated by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This is a great opportunity: public libraries meeting standards at Tier Levels 1,2, or 3 are eligible to apply for the ARPA Grants--in the amount of \$5,000.00 per library--beginning this week.

Please note that the online application form has been delayed a few days, but it is expected to be available soon. State Librarian Michael Scott writes *"In order to ensure that we implement the best application experience for you, the State Library is delaying the opening of the ARPA Grant applications by a few days. We anticipate having the application form open on **Wednesday May 19, 2021**. All the other deadlines are expected to remain the same. Take these extra days to review the information about the grants [here](#). If questions, reach out to your [District Consultant](#) or to Program Directors [Nancy Medema](#) or [Marie Harms](#)."*

Allowable Purchases

The State Library has prepared a list of allowable purchases, following national priorities set by IMLS for the ARPA funding. Note that some items that access the Internet may fall under CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) and require Internet filtering. Among the allowable purchases: laptops, tablets, hotspots, routers, meeting room equipment such as

PA systems, digital TVs, projectors, and much more. Refer to [this page on our website](#) for all the possibilities.

The purpose of these grants is to enable public libraries to support digital inclusion efforts through education partnerships, community health and wellness projects, or workforce development needs. Grants can also be used as a continued response to the pandemic and to implement public health protocols. **We will be looking at the applications with an eye toward projects that will make a meaningful impact in Iowa communities.**

These are non-competitive grants and will be handled as a reimbursement; meaning that library-city budgets will need to pay for any of the allowable purchases and the ARPA grant funding will then provide reimbursement.

Timeline

This grant project has a quick turnaround time due to the requirement that all **ARPA** funding must be expended by the State Library by September 30, 2022. This timeline will allow room for other potential projects or additional grants if any funds remain following the initial round of grants.

- Grant Applications Available = **May 19, 2021**
- Grant Applications Due = **July 2, 2021**
- Signed Agreements Due = **July 30, 2021**
- Grant Amount Expended By = **January 31, 2022**
- Reimbursement Requests Due = **April 29, 2022**
- Final Report Due = **April 29, 2022**

Action Steps

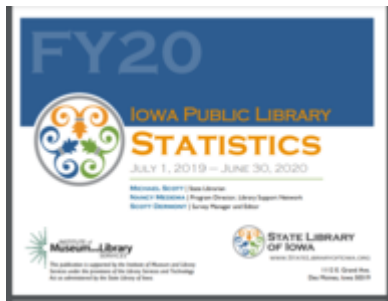
The online grant application will open in the next few days. In the meantime, there are things that directors, staff, and boards can do to be ready to participate:

- Begin thinking about the library and community needs related to digital inclusion and/or the pandemic and what your library could do in response. Again, we will be looking at the applications with an eye toward projects that should produce a meaningful impact in Iowa communities.
- Read the [ARPA Grant FAQ](#) on the State Library website
- Review the [List of Allowable Expenses](#) on the State Library website
- Attend upcoming District Office Hours to discuss these grants and the possibilities for collaboration with your colleagues

The Institute of Museum and Library Services supports this program under the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act as administered by the State Library of Iowa

ARPA Grant Program == Learn More!

Newly Released ...



Annual Survey Data FY2020

The State Library has released the **Iowa Public Library Annual Survey Data FY2020**. This data represents the submissions from Iowa public library directors who completed the Iowa *Public Library Annual Survey* last fall. State Library Consultant Scott Dermont coordinates this statewide data collection every fall and oversees the statewide compilation of data every spring.

Of the 543 public libraries in Iowa, 509 submitted an annual survey for FY20. Only those public libraries that submitted a survey are included in this report. This is an important publication for library directors, staff, and boards to access and use. Quite often, library staff will ask questions of each other on LibraryTalk, questions ranging from salary information to number of hours open to building square footage. This article serves as a reminder that those statistics and so many more are compiled every year and made available on the State Library's website. The button below links to the PDF document for FY2020.

The Data and How To Use It

The **Iowa Public Library Statistics** compilation includes information on library income, expenditures, collections, circulation, salaries, hours, and other measures. Each section is arranged by size code; within the size code, libraries are listed alphabetically by city. Totals, averages, and percentiles for each population size code are shown immediately following the alphabetical listings.

Public library statistics are used at the local, regional, state, and national levels. Statistics are used to compare library performance, justify budget requests, track library data over time, assist in planning and evaluation, and provide valuable information for grants and other library programs.

Background

All 50 states collect public library information according to guidelines and definitions established by the Public Library Statistics Cooperative (PLSC). The PLSC provides state-by-state rankings for public libraries. In FY18, the latest national data available, Iowa had 543 independent public libraries; that number puts Iowa 4th nationally after New York, Illinois, and Texas.

[Find FY2020 Iowa Public Library Statistics](#)

Scholarships to ARSL Conference



In Sparks, Nevada: October 20-23, 2021

Library directors and staff are encouraged to apply for one of four scholarships to attend this fall's conference sponsored by the **Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)**. Applicants have until **May 28th** to submit applications for any of these four:

- **ARSL Angels Scholarship**
- **Dr. Vavrek Scholarship**
- **Founders Scholarship**
- **Ken Davenport Scholarship**

Scholarship winners will all receive a complimentary registration to the entire conference, in addition to three paid nights at the conference hotel. Winners of the Dr. Vavrek and the Founders scholarships will also receive a fixed travel stipend.

None of the **ARSL** conference scholarships require applicants to have an MLIS or other degree to be eligible. All applicants will be notified of the status of their application before the opening of **Early Bird Registration set for July 6th**. Visit the **ARSL** website at the button below for all details.

Association For Rural & Small Libraries

This Week ...



POP YS LIVE

This month's POP YS Live session happens this **Thursday May 20th at 1:00PM**. This month's topic is all about storytime tips, whether in person or online. Three **BRAND NEW** youth librarians will share some of their storytime tips and even demonstrate some of their best efforts. This is a fun chance to observe fellow youth librarians in action. Still time to register inside IALearns ...

IALearns

Big Ideas Book Discussion

A reminder for everyone pre-registered for the next **Big Ideas Book Discussion**: it happens this **Friday May 21 at 9:30AM**. The title up for discussion this time around is Inspiring Library Stories: Tales of Kindness, Connection, and Community Impact (c2020) by Oleg Kagan. Having come through an incredibly challenging year in our home lives and work lives, this collection of stories lends credence to the role that libraries play in the life of communities.

From Amazon: "...According to a 2019 Gallup poll, visiting the library is the most common cultural activity Americans engage in. Here are 43 true stories that show you why. Shared by library workers, volunteers, and patrons from around the United States, these funny, insightful, and moving tales are sure to be a welcome treat for library lovers and an education for anyone who has ever wondered what makes libraries such a uniquely treasured institution. The stories are book-ended by five essays further exploring the value of libraries in the digital age..."

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